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It would almost seem that Mr. James, with grim humour (a quality conspicuously absent in the text), had here tried to make his volume reflect his own distaste of his subject.

It is a thankless task to criticise a writer whose refined literary taste and masterly skill in the subtle use of words have enriched our language and given to the world some beautiful compositions. But there is nothing to be said in praise of the present work, except that, here and there, in the midst of weary wastes of useless words and phrases, a whimsical turn of expression, a discerning insight, and a touch, as of a painter's brush, in a reference to nature, give a faint echo of the Henry James we once knew.

Whether as the ancient contemplative person, the restless analyst, the repatriated traveller, or under whatever other conceit he chooses ineffectually to veil his personality, he is ever the cynical, garrulous old man whose pen has lost the "large lucidity" of earlier days. Here the mannerisms which once gave his touch originality are crystallized into monstrosities, and his acute insight obscured by forced impressions and a too evident disgust of "the crudities and vulgarities of this blatant democracy."

Viewed either as a literary composition or as a trustworthy criticism of American art or manners, this work strikes one as neither sane nor sincere. Sense is hard to find in words and phrases tortured out of all clearness and simplicity by perverse use and eccentric arrangement. Criticism is of little value when seen through the medium of Mr. James's prejudiced and preconceived opinions.

His visits to many of the cities about which he writes were out of season and only for a day or two, but for him they "connote" or "send out a general note" with all the clearness of a long and intimate acquaintance.

New York as the birthplace of the "returned absentee" attracted most of his attention, and consequently suffers most from his criticism—though he does acknowledge a grudging fondness for Washington Square as the scene of youthful exploits and recollections.

Aside from much that is grotesque, much that is vague and incoherent, much that, to the unilluminated, is unintelligible in this book, still there is something of insight and artistic appreciation which might have come to us as a helpful message had it been conveyed with simple directness and in a volume condensed to one-third the size.

H. P. L.

The Story of Dublin. By D. A. Chart, M. A. xvi+368. Illustrations (47) by Howard. Map of Environs. Plan of City. J. M. Dent & Co., London, 1907.

A perusal of the story of this old Celtic city will well repay an appreciative reader. The simple directness of style and evident accuracy of statement carry with them their own recommendation. As the ancient capital of Ireland, the history of Dublin is an epitome of the history of the Kingdom.

It is ever a temptation to a writer to bring out in strong colours the bizarre and tragic events of Irish history. Our author meets this temptation with restraint, and yet with a sympathy that secures the confidence of the reader at once.

The history of Dublin begins with 150 A. D., when it was but a ford on the Liffey, and continues to the present day. During these years we are taken through many stirring scenes of war and politics.

Against Dublin as a background stand out the warlike figures of Olaf and

Thorkils the Danes warring against Conn of a Hundred Battles and Brian Boru; of the traitorous Dermot MacMurrough and his Anglo-Norman ally, Strongbow, contending with the fierce O'Connors and O'Byrnes; of the rival Desmonds and Ormonds, conniving, now with the English, now with the native chiefs.

And later, when peace settles upon the war-scarred city, Grattan, O'Connell, Fitzgerald, and Robert Emmet play their parts in the old Parliament House, the Mayor's Palace, and old Thomas Street.

The second division of the book treats of Dublin the city. Its plan, historic streets, buildings, and squares are described with an accuracy and interest that show intimate acquaintance and rare appreciation.

This portion of the volume is invaluable as a guide-book for tourists and as a mine of information to the antiquarian. For the ordinary reader, too, it has its interest. Under the author's pen old Dublin is peopled anew by the men and women who made it and loved it. We can see them sitting in the old Parliament House listening to the fiery eloquence of the United Irishmen, or applauding Peg Woffington in Crow Street Theatre.

The volume is full of fine illustrations and contains also an elaborate plan of the city. It will not appeal to a large audience, but, aside from literary merit, it will always be useful in the hands of any visitor to the city. H. P. L.

Deutsche Kulturaufgaben in China. Vortrag von Legationsrat

Dr. Knappe. Schriften der Deutsch-Asiatischen Gesellschaft, No. 3, 1906. Berlin, H. Paetel. 28 p.

In this lecture the former well-known German Consul-General of Shanghai, Dr. Knappe, outlines an impartial picture of the cultural missions and tendencies which the foreign nations have hitherto followed in China. The spread of Western science and education is now making fast progress there; but while the French take the lead with over 5,000 schools, the English and Americans follow them with some 2,000, and the Japanese may soon overtake all of them, it strikes him that German activity, with only six missionary societies, twenty-three schools, and four hospitals, makes a very poor showing, and is rather backward in carrying its educational ideals into the hearts of the Chinese. He therefore lays three practical propositions before the German-Asiatic Society—the establishment of a German school of medicine for Chinese in Shanghai; a higher school connected with it, to prepare Chinese for special study in Germany; a stock of elementary teachers, to be kept in Shanghai, and to be sent to reform schools in the country for instruction in German. Part of these plans are now under way, and look toward a speedy realization. The address is written in a warm and very distinguished tone. B. L.

Die Kultur Japans. Von Dr. Daiji Itchikawa. Berlin, Karl Curtius,

1907. 149 p.

This is a refreshing production by an author of good common sense, who is instructor of his mother-tongue at the Oriental Seminary of Berlin. It is light reading, written in a light style, fortunately not in the heavy academic style, with an admirable command of German; and, for which we are still more grateful to the author, he is, unlike others of his countrymen, free from any stilted phrase, and perfectly sincere and equitable in his judgments. It is remarkable, for example, to hear from the lips of a Japanese the verdict pronounced that there is still much to be desired in the industry of his country, and that one of the manifold reasons for